



BARBADOS



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Sandra MASON

Head of Government

Prime Minister Mia MOTTLEY

Government Type

parliamentary democracy (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Bridgetown

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (21 seats) and the House of Assembly (30 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court (consists of the High Court with 8 justices) and the Court of Appeal (consists of the High Court chief justice and president of the court and 4 justices)

note - in 2010, Barbados replaced the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London with the Caribbean Court of Justice, as the final court of appeal

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Selwin Charles HART

US Ambassador

Ambassador Linda S. TAGLIATELA

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 430 sq km

Land: 430 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; rainy season (June to October)

Natural Resources

petroleum, fish, natural gas

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

traditionally a sugarcane economy, Barbados has become one of the wealthiest Caribbean countries by diversifying into tourism but at the cost of high and growing public debt

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$5.244 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$18,700 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$482.5 million (2017 est.)

partners: US 38%, Trinidad and Tobago 10.2%, Guyana 5.5%, Jamaica 5%, China 4.8%, St. Lucia 4.6% (2017)

Imports

\$1.515 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 38.5%, Trinidad and Tobago 14.6%, China 7.1%, UK 4.7% (2017)

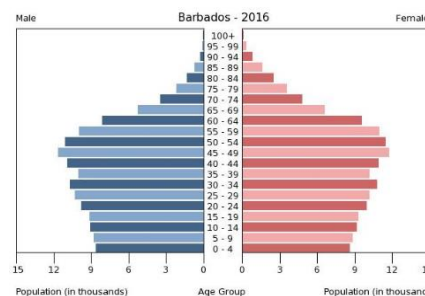
PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

292,300 (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth

0.28% (2017 est.)



Ethnicity

black 92.4%, mixed 3.1%, white 2.7%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.2%, unspecified 0.3% (2010 est.)

Language

English (official), Bajan (English-based creole language, widely spoken in informal settings)

Religion

Protestant 66.4%, Roman Catholic 3.8%, other Christian 5.4%, Rastafarian 1%, other 1.5%, none 20.6%, unspecified 1.2% (2010 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 31.1% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization: 0.2% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)